



## FIRST THINGS FIRST

*The right system for bright futures*

Barbara Mezzio  
Chair

Kai Gerkey  
Vice Chair

Mary Allen  
Member

Aaron Harris  
Member

Arnoldo Hernandez  
Member

Mary Kyle  
Member

Christina Jenkins  
Member

Melanie O'Neil  
Member

Bryant Powell  
Member

Charity Russell  
Member

Madame Chair and Members of the Board

First Things First

4000 N. Central Avenue, Suite 800

Phoenix, AZ 85012

### **RE: Request to present two strategies for your consideration**

Dear Madame Chair and Members of the Board,

The Pinal Regional Partnership Council is requesting to present two strategies for your consideration. These strategies are from our original Pinal Regional Funding Plan presented to you at the State Board Meeting on the December 3, 2009, but at your request these were returned to the Council for further development. We have taken into consideration the comments and direction provided to us by the Board and staff. The Council committees and staff have further developed and improved the strategies, and we are please to submit the following strategies for your consideration.

#### **Strategy Eight: Family Support Consortium and Service Expansion.**

Included in this strategy is the development of the Family Support Consortium, comprised of the current service providers throughout the region. Members will meet, work toward an alignment of services, and receive instruction on best practices. Ongoing professional development and support will improve the practice, accountability, and evaluation for these existing services to families.

Also within the strategy is the release of expansion grants. Following the consortiums reporting on existing services and utilizing their expertise in the region and profession, the Regional Council will release funds for expansion grants to fill the greatest needs for unserved or underserved areas of the region.

#### **Strategy Ten: Expand and Enhance Existing Community Based Early Care and Education Training and Professional Development Support.**

The Regional Partnership Council has researched and designed a model for providing support, training, and professional development to the early care and education

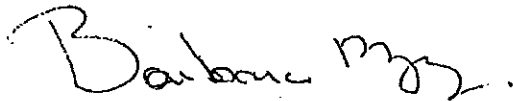
community. High quality trainers, alignment and partnership with existing services, and a continuous improvement plan are all components of this strategy.

Our intention and vision for each strategy remains true to our original intent: to address the greatest needs with effective, well designed efficient strategies; which will change outcomes and increase quality opportunities for young children in the Pinal Region.

We have responded to the direction and suggestions and found that indeed the strategies now presented are stronger and more focused.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Mezzio". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a stylized "M".

Barbara Mezzio  
Chair  
Pinal Regional Partnership Council